

October 15, 2007 Homeless Education Update

Homeless Education Community:

Welcome and thank you for serving in the position of Homeless Education Liaison for the 2007-2008 school year. A red McKinney Vento Law information packet should have already arrived on your desk. This packet includes updated and revised materials, including the Homeless Liaison Worksheet and Power point presentation as described below. Additional red packets, or component materials, can be requested from the Vermont Department of Education or can be downloaded from the Homeless Education website above.

Homeless Education Liaison Status: Every SU/SD in Vermont submitted a Consolidated Federal Program application to the DOE that designated a Homeless Education Liaison for the 2007-2008 school year. This listserv is designed to provide updated technical assistance and support to you throughout the year, so it is important that the list of Liaisons be accurate. If you have any questions regarding your status as a Homeless Education Liaison, please contact Ms. Lisa Champney.

Vermont Schools Identified 838 Homeless Students in the past school year, an increase from the 681 students identified last year. This is a significant achievement reflecting your efforts to identify students experiencing homelessness in your schools. Remember, every SU/SD will be asked to provide information on these two questions at the end of this school year as part of the Consolidated Federal Reporting process:

1. The number of homeless children and youth by grade level that were served by your program during the 2007-2008 school year, and
2. The number of homeless children and youth who had the following as their primary night residence: shelter, hotel/motel, doubled-up, unsheltered (campground, car, etc), other.

Use the **Homeless Liaison Worksheet** for each identified student so that the above information is readily available at the end of the year. The worksheet is in the red McKinney Vento information packet as well as on the Homeless Education website:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/liaison_worksheet.pdf

The **Simple Information System Notebook** is designed to organize both the Homeless Liaison Worksheets and the Referral Forms that you receive from school staff. If you would like to have this Simple System Notebook sent to you, contact Lisa Champney at lisa.champney@state.vt.us.

New Liaisons are invited to receive a personal orientation session from staff members of the Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project staff. If you have not been contacted already, just click into the VHCYP brochure for information on your regional staff member:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/homeless_brochure.pdf

We have created a **new and improved** McKinney Vento Homeless Education **power point presentation** now on the DOE website at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/homeless_education_0807.pdf

This presentation is designed to be used as a **self tutorial** for new liaisons, a **refresher course**

for experienced liaisons, and a **training tool** that you can use to train administrative and school staff in identifying students experiencing homelessness.

A training session for school staff could use the power point presentation and the:

- Homeless Education Liaison **Referral form**:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/referral_form.pdf
- The **Getting It Right Flow Chart**:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdftoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/getting_it_right.pdf

Two posters were included in your red packet a **Youth Poster** and a **Parent Poster**. It is important to make sure that these posters are prominently displayed in all schools in your SU/SD. Information on the posters is also on the DOE website:

http://www.serve.org/nche/products_list.php#parent_poster

You can personalize the poster by adding contact information in the white box. Additional posters are free from the National Center for Homeless Education by calling (800) 308-2145.

This issue's question... Which Homeless Education Liaison determines the homeless status of a student? the Liaison for the school where the student was formerly enrolled (school of origin) or the Liaison for the school where the student is currently residing?

Answer. Homeless status is determined by the Liaison for the school where the student is currently residing. Best practice is to always contact the Liaison from the school of origin to consult on student needs and to coordinate transportation if appropriate.